

20 October 1971

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: Paul Dickopf (President, INTERPOL)

1. On the morning of October 14, 1971 Dickopf, Gemmer, Jeschke, Oakey, [] met at BKA headquarters to discuss the narcotics problem in Turkey and Germany. Oakey indicated that he would be doing a report of this session and the subsequent lunch session. During the morning meeting, Dickopf and Jeschke both agreed to see me later in the day on the subject of INTERPOL.

2. I met with Dickopf in his office at BKA for two hours in the afternoon and we continued the discussion during the evening over dinner and drinks. The group discussion during the morning and lunch sessions was mostly in German, whereas Dickopf and I spoke French throughout our two sessions. I suggested that we might speak English, but Dickopf was obviously more comfortable in French. Highlights of the remarks made by Dickopf follow.

3. INTERPOL-NARCOTICS

a. Interpol has at present a modest reservoir of experienced manpower which could produce finished intelligence on the narcotics problem. Unfortunately, several of the most qualified Interpol representatives are approaching retirement. (Dickopf will, however, be making an effort to maintain continuity by retaining some of them beyond retirement age). One of the Division commanders (Aube) has had experience in the drug problem, and at the lower echelons there is also experience (Langlais).

b. Interpol is ready to put together a team, headed by Langlais, to produce strategic intelligence on the narcotics problem. Obviously, information must be given to the team by the countries interested in obtaining the finished intelligence. In particular, the US must contribute information. In addition, the team would function much better, if it contained a representative from the US.

c. This team would be physically separated from the rest of INTERPOL activities, and would thus have the

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required security. The composition of the team and the dictates of the countries contributing to the team would determine the dissemination of the finished product, and of the incoming information. Thus traffickers of various nations, including France, would not repeat not profit from the inflow of intelligence.

d. It is not possible to set up a country group within INTERPOL such as the Group of Ten in financial matters. (This was in response to my statement that INTERPOL was much too large to permit an effective and secure flow and analysis of sensitive information, and that a smaller group of countries already within INTERPOL might better serve intelligence needs).

4. INTERPOL-GENERAL

a. There has been an effort for twenty years to make INTERPOL more international, but governments usually hesitate because of money. (It costs the German government some fifty to sixty thousand dollars annually to post a BKA officer with INTERPOL).

b. The United States has always been "curious" about INTERPOL but not "curious" enough to commit men and money to the operation, despite INTERPOL's strong desire to have Americans work with their Headquarters.

c. Because INTERPOL is located in France, it is a "good idea" to have the Secretary General be French. The same reasoning probably applies to the four divisional commanders. The Secretary General also must have a police background. Other government experience or academic experience are not adequate for the job.

d. The present Secretary General as well as previous ones desire more international participation and the present Secretary General is not happy that his staff is 90 percent French.

e. The outfit was started in Brussels in 1946 and as it became more international the decision was made to move to Paris. There is no evidence that this decision was influenced by the French government.

f. There are 113 countries now members with East European countries and the Soviet Union expected. All they need do is apply and they will be admitted.

g. After 25 years Interpol has finally established a direct line of commo with the USG, to the Treasury. This is the result of cooperation with Gene Rossides for whom Dickopf has admiration.

h. Germany stands ready to contribute more men and money to INTERPOL, if other major countries are willing to do so.

i. The police forces of UK, France, Germany, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Brazil, and Algeria are all of a high order and have the respect of Interpol. As to Mexico and Venezuela (the US "protege") they are of a very low and unreliable order).

5. GERMANY-NARCOTICS

a. There is political mileage in the anti-drug campaign and he has so informed his Minister who agreed with him. The recent 15 day, orchestrated, all media propaganda campaign had some impact and was at least a successful bureaucratic effort on the part of BKA. One technical problem related to the program was the paucity of good films on the subject. Films about drug addiction have been made for many years but film libraries deferred films which were found to be laughable for modern youthful audiences.

b. Dickopf expressed considerable concern about German youth and especially about the apparent failure of parents to assume family responsibilities. Within this larger perspective he expressed anxiety about drugs in Germany.

6. PERSONAL

a. Dickopf indicates that he is very much at home in the US where he has visited many times and where he has family (Chicago, and Arkansas). He spoke with pride of having talked with President Kennedy, of having a good relationship with James Rowley and now with Gene Rossides.

b. He has adopted three kids (two grade school and one teenager). This he did because of a desire to have kids in his life (his marriage was childless) and because he will get less criticism for failing to "understand" young people as he deals with crime and criminals.

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d. He mentions his anti-Nazi record and indicates that it is well known. He boasted of having walked from Holland to Switzerland after he had fled Germany. As a part of his responsibilities as head of the BKA he had kept an eye on all the remaining famous Nazis and their families after the war. For him, at least professionally, Borman is dead. He thinks that the Speer book is an accurate reflection of what happened under Hitler and that there are relatively few inaccuracies in the book.

d. Dickopf has a considerable knowledge of French wines and also of the better German vintages. He smokes some three packs of cigarettes daily, but this does not seem to jade his palate. He is a hearty eater and consumes his share of a bottle. I sensed shortly after we began lunch that he was a gourmet and that such an approach to him would probably be the most effective in the short term. He managed to arrange his schedule so that we could dine together at a restaurant which he regards as one of the best in Germany. This was after he had first indicated that he had a large backlog of work.

c. Both sessions with Dickopf went easily and the evening was very enjoyable. I promised to write him and give him locational data whereby he could call me when he next visits the States. I also agreed to visit him when I was next in Europe.

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